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The Next Step of Executive Encroachment.

Twenty-six national and sectional business organizations of importance, such, for example, as the Millers' National Association, the National Retail Grocers' Association, the National Grange of Patrons of Husbandry, and the Northwestern Manufacturers' Association, are represented as actively interested in a movement to secure legislation by Congress amending the Interstate Commerce

About one hundred and forty State and local organizations, including boards of trade, chambers of commerce, merchants' exchanges and commercial clubs and associations, are represented as engaged in the same movement. They hail from thirty States and range in magnitude from the Merchants' Association and the Produce Exchange of this town and the Board of Trade of Philadelphia to the Dairy Board of Muscoda, Wyoming.

Eight States, namely, Iowa, Kansas Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, South Dakota and Wisconsin, are reported as having memorialized Congress, by formal action of their respective Legislatures, for an amendment of the Federal law similar in character to that said to be demanded by the various business organizations to which we have referred.

What is the new legislation so widely desired?

The project of amendment has been submitted to the present House of Representatives in what is known as the Cooper bill, and in the Senate as an identical measure introduced by Senator QUARLES.

These bills confer distinctly upon the Interstate Commerce Commission a power denied to the commission by a decision of the Supreme Court under the present law, namely, the power to fix new rates for the transportation of persons and property in interstate commerce, in cases where existing rates are complained of as unjustly discriminative or unreasonable; this power to be exercised not upon the order of the courts, but upon the commission's own initiative, subject to review on appeal and holding good until set aside by the

It will be observed that the change proposed makes the Interstate Commerce Commission not the mere agent of a judicial order, but in fact itself a lower court, subject, of course, like all lower courts, to the correction of its decrees by the superior tribunals. It likewise prac- tried to give Canada a preference over tically shifts the burden of proof from the the United States. The attempt was thus going, for the first time in the hiscomplainant to the corporation accused | made in the first quarter of the last cenof unreasonable or unjustly discriminative rates; for it provides that the orders of the Interstate Commerce Commission changing and fixing rates shall continue in force until suspended or set aside by the real courts to which appeal is made by the carriers.

Thus it reverses the present operation of the Interstate Commerce law.

The proposed amendment and the consequent extension of the power of a quasi-judicial body outside of the established judiciary are likely to be studied closely in Washington, unless, indeed, all questions of executive encroachment on the functions of the Judicial Department have ceased to be of interest. This bill, apart from its immediate bearing on the convenience and the efficiency of the administration of the Interstate Commerce law, is of farreaching importance and significance. Its enactment would be a long step in had composed their troubles, and some the way of government by commission and the regulation of prices by central authority.

"Who," inquired the Hon. PHILANDER C. Knox of the Pittsburg Chamber of Commerce, on Oct. 14, 1902, "shall set limits now, in advance of a carefully most admired disorder. He expressed framed and judicially tested law, to the competence of Congress to regulate freedom and the rights of the individual: commerce in exercise of the legislative wisdom and in the wise discretion confided to it? Who shall say the power of Congress does not extend so far?"

We notice among the names of the bodies said to be supporting the Cooper-Quarles amendment that of the Pittsburg Chamber of Commerce, to which the Attorney-General addressed that memorable question a little more than

Mr. Chamberlain Seems to Be Winning.

It would not be easy to exaggerate the mificance of the success of two earnest advocates of Mr. CHAMBERLAIN'S preferential tariff at the by-elections held on Tuesday, Dec. 15, in the London suburban divisions of Dulwich and Lewisham. We should not be surprised if Mr. BALFOUR should see in their success a proof that he may with safety dissolve Parliament at an early date and appeal to the British people on the issue framed by the ex-Secretary of the Colonies.

The Free-Food Unionists have themselves to blame for permitting Mr. Cham-BERLAIN's friends to draw the conclusion named from these by-elections. Dulwich and Lewisham are Conservative strongholds which under ordinary circumstances Liberal candidates could not have hoped to carry. In 1895 the Conservative nominees were not even opposed. In the present contests, moreover, local issues were involved, and no definite deduction with reference to a of the United Mine Workers of America To bar the copper colored immigrant preferential tariff need have been drawn and consulting statesman to the White live wires might be needed; but Mr. from the result had the Free-Food Union- House, leaped to his feet and made an DERON is too humane to recommend

ists remained quiescent. Unfortunately for their cause, the Duke of DEVONSHIRE, | EIDLITZ'S analysis of the bottom of the Mr. C. T. RITCHIE and Lord GOSCHEN the two last named have both been Unionist Chancellors of the Exchequer), Lord Balfour of Burleigh, lately Secretary of State for Scotland, and Lord | down in our hearts we believe something we do GEORGE HAMILTON, who recently resigned the post of Secretary for India, came forward at a late stage of the canvass, and advised all Liberal-Unionist electors to vote against the candidates who favored a duty upon wheat and flour.

From a tactical viewpoint, the move

should have been made much earlier, if made at all. As it is, the utter futility of the interposition of their leaders has profoundly discouraged the Free-Food Unionists. This is evident from the tone of the Liberal newspapers. The Chronicle, for instance, which has been disposed to make light of Mr. CHAMBERLAIN'S revolutionary project, now concedes that he is a power in the country, the magnitude of which it would be a serious blunder to underrate. The Daily News acknowledges that the outcome of these local contests, to which a national importance was given by the eleventh-hour intervention of the Free-Food leaders, may well embolden the Government to proceed without further delay to elicit the views of the people by a general election. Shrewd observers give much weight to the fact that the former Conservative majority was less reduced in Lewisham, which is largely inhabited by workmen, than it was in Dulwich, which is mainly tenanted by city clerks. It seems a fair inference that the working classes in Great Britain are not frightened by the assertion that the adoption of Mr. CHAM-BERLAIN'S plan would increase the price of a loaf of bread. Now that it seems possible, if not prob-

able, that the United Kingdom will enact a tariff that will give its colonies a preference, the prospective effect of the innovation on our own national interests will soon be brought home to American producers of wheat and flour. As we pointed out some months ago, it is not quite true to say that we, having long been protecionists, cannot, with any show of consistency, object to the adoption of protectionist principles by the British Empire. We should not dream of objecting to the acceptance of protectionist principles by the British Parliament. What we do object to, and with good reason, is the enactment of a tariff that singles out the United States for hostile discrimination. The practical, the inevitable, nay,

at present Great Britain consumes. This

purpose he means to carry out by allow-

ing the Canadian producer to deliver his

grain in Great Britain duty free, while a

duty, at the start considerable, and cer-

tury, and we retain ted by levying coun-

ports. A tariff war ensued, with the

Britain's ports on equal terms with those

A New York Dinner and Some Chi-

cago Funerals.

The New York Civic Federation has

to walk warily to carry out its excellent

intentions. Its dinner in this town on

Saturday night in honor of the execu-

tive committee of the National Civic

Federation came near being wrecked

by a strike. After the waiters' unions

two hundred "representatives of capital

and labor" had found in food and drink

an harmonious platform, Mr. CHARLES

L. EIDLITZ, president of the New York

Building Trades Employers' Association

almost broke the good meeting with

these old fogy notions about personal

"We have made certain agreements with the

that the unions will make an earnest effort to do

the same, but what I want to say is that I believe

the whole structure on which our agreement has

18,000, A. F. of L., before we give him a job than we

have to inquire whether he is a Catholic or Prot

"I don't believe that when a man comes into my

office looking for work who is an American, capable

to ask him the questions my agreement makes me

"There are only three questions to be considered

in hiring a man, to my mind, and those are: First.

whether he wants to work; second, whether he has

the ability, and, third, whether you want to hire

If he had contented himself with the

utterance of these obsolete heresies, he

might have been heard , ith tolerant

or contemptuous silence by the repre-

sentatives of labor. He was indiscreet

enough to go farther, and to assert his

with this outrageous attack on a sacred

"I believe in organized labor, but I say when

organized labor interferes with the rights of a free

white man over 21 who lives in this country, some-

thing must be done, and I hope the Civic Federat lo

The Hon. JOHN MITCHELL, President

institution:

is going to do it."

estant, a Mason or a Knight of Columbus.

the Constitution of the United States.

American competitor.

commercial interests.

community. It is unfortunate that the glorious he avowed outcome of Mr. CHAMBERvictory in Chicago was not known, or LAIN's plan, should it be embodied in law, at least not mentioned, at the New York would be the advancement of Canada at dinner. It would have inspired new the expense of the United States. enthusiasm in the bosoms of some of We are now the principal purveyors of those who were present. wheat and flour to the British people

It is Mr. CHAMBERLAIN'S aim to transfer

The Prohibitionists Go West. England's imports of those indispensa-That frugality is the reward of temble commodities from the United States perance and sobriety was shown at the to Canada. He desires, in other words, to leave on the hands of our farmers that large fraction of our wheat crop which

recent meeting in Chicago of the Prohibition national committee. The treasurer reported \$7,475 cash in hand toward the expenses of the Presidential campaign of next year. The committee, with the solemnity

hearts of Mr. MITCHELL and Mr. Gom-

"I deny him the right to impugn the honesty of

Mr. GOMPERS or myself. When he says that deep

"If I held those opinions and I were in his place

I would not sign an agreement to make a union

test, to ask a man to show a union card: I would

Of course, these distinguished presi-

dents of labor don't believe that any

man who doesn't belong to a labor union

has a right to work. Mr. MITCHELL

properly refused to discuss "the merits

or demerits of the open shop" at that

dinner table. At the proper time and

place, labor unions are "ready to meet

that issue, and we will not meet it by

other means than our ability to defend

ery drivers was arguing in Chicago.

They are on strike and carrying out

the principles in which Mr. MITCHELL

and Mr. GOMPERS sincerely believe. En-

forcing their monopoly, these drivers

not only prevented livery stable teams

and private ambulances from going out,

but declined to permit hearses. They

tried to assault an undertaker at a fune-

ral and on his way from a funeral. They

rioted in the shadow of a church. Po-

licemen with clubs acted as pallbearers.

The sick could not be moved to the hos-

pitals. The dead were carried to their

graves amid hoots and groans. One

man sat, armed, by the driver's side on

the seat of an undertaker's wagon, and

so took his wife's body to the cemetery.

A child's body was taken to the bury-

ing ground in a street car. The pickets

of the union were stationed at the house

In short, the arguments and the logic

of the union were severe and effective.

If a man has no right to work without

the consent of the union, he has no right

to be carried to the grave without the

consent of the union or in non-union

vehicles. The open grave is as forbid-

den as the open shop, and the indigna-

tion which seems to seethe in some il-

logical persons, probably with "capital-

istic" sympathies, at the thoroughness

of the Chicago proceedings, is out of

place. Those drivers have the courage

of their convictions under any circum-

stances and at every cost to the inferior,

unorganized and outlawed part of the

while the funeral was in progress.

That same Saturday the union of liv-

have the courage of my convictions under all cir

not advocate, he says what is not true

cumstances and at any cost."

it by argument or logic."

and seriousness befitting the representatives of one of the great parties, took tain to increase, is imposed upon his four ballots before determining the time Now, as Mr. CARNEGIE has pointed out of holding the next convention, and finally fixed on June 29, a week later than in a letter to the London Times, this is not the Republican convention. It chose the first occasion on which England has as the convention city Kansas City, Mo., tory of Prohibition politics, west of the inni River tervailing taxes on British ships in our

The first Prohibition national convention met in 1872 in Columbus, Ohio, result that Mr. Huskisson, who only a the next one in Cleveland, that of 1880 year before had denounced as "an un- in Cleveland again, that of 1884 in Pittsheard-of pretension" our demand that burg, that of 1888 in Indianapolis, that of American commodities should enter 1892 in Cincinnati, that of 1896 in Pittsburg, and that of 1900 in Chicago. Practiof her colonies, acknowledged that his cally, therefore, all Prohibition convencountry could no longer continue a pref- tions since the formal organization of erential policy without disaster to her the party thirty years ago have been held in the territory between Chicago and Pittsburg; and the Prohibitionists have sought their recruits most successfully in the Middle West. With the decline of the Prohibition party, however, there has been a recognition of the fact that the East and Middle West are

no longer favorable territory. In New York State the Prohibition party has ceased to be much of a factor. In the South prohibitory legislation has been secured without the cooperation. and indeed, in some cases, against the protest of the most active Prohibitionists. In New England the Prohibition party is not in very good shape. The selection of Kansas City as the place of holding the next national convention is a tacit acknowledgment by the Prohibitionists of conditions which, for the first time, impel them to meet in a State strongly Democratic.

Dixon's Wire Fence.

unions. We believe we will carry them out and The Hon. JOSEPH MOORE DIXON, the Montana delegation in the House of been based is wrong. I don't believe we have any Representatives, has put his name higher more right to ask a man if he is a member of No. than that of the builders of the Chinese Wall. He has built on paper an anti-Chinese, anti-smuggling, anti-Indian fence. His joint resolution directs the Secretary of Commerce and Labor to inquire into the cost and feasibility of and willing to work, it is any more of my business constructing a wire fence along the ask him to-day than it is my business to analyze Canadian boundary between Lake of the Woods and Point Roberts."

The resolution recites the violation of the immigration. Chinese Exclusion and Revenue laws on the northern boundary of the United States, and the harrowing of American citizens living near that line by the incursions of Cree and

other Canadian aborigines. Wherefore Mr. CORTELYOU is instructed to find out and report if these illegal practices can be prevented "by means of a wire fence along the line disbelief "that Mr. Gompers there, or dividing the United States from the Mr. MITCHELL, or anybody, down in his British possessions between the Lake of heart disagrees with me"; and he ended the Woods and Point Roberts, such fence to be equipped with telegraph, telephone or other electric apparatus to convey warnings to inspectors and other officers charged with the execution of the laws

> mentioned." A wire fence might be fatal to Mongolian blouses and trousers and arrest the progress of heavily laden smugglers.

unnecessary but warm denial of Mr. such fortification. His interesting resolution needs at least one amendment. The wire fence must not consist of

trust made" wire

A member of the Musical Union said in THE SUN vesterday that composers are to be unionized next winter and soloists the winter after that. The high and highsalaried gods and goddesses of music will have to wear a button. "Union players shall not play for non-union soloists.' Presumably the next law, after that edict has been obeyed, will be this: "Union players or soloists shall not play or sing for non-union audiences.'

Mr. JOHN SHARP WILLIAMS, who writes lovely poetry in the House of Representatives, has introduced a bill to repeal the duty on hides, leather and the manufactures thereof, imported into this country from countries not collecting a duty on similar articles exported by this country. In order that there can be no doubt about Mr. WILLIAMS's belief that the consumer pays the import duties, he describes his measure as "a bill to reduce taxation on American citizens who use hides, leather, boots, shoes, saddles and harness," which s certainly more entertaining than "a bill admit hides and leather free of duty."

The Elkins Law and the Merger Case. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I notice n THE SUN of this morning that the Inter-Commerce Commission speaks favorably of the Elkins law, which compels railroads to publish a tariff of rates and to enforce the same without discrimination or change. It is absurd to suppose that any two railroads running to the same points would publish a tariff that differed as regards rates. The competition would come in when the business of a large shipper was solicited. Then the rates would naturally be cut to se-

cure it.

The Elkins law effectually prevents this being done. This being the case, what sense is there in the suit against the Northern Securities Company because it has the power to prevent competition, when the Government, by the Elkins law, has already brought about this result?

CHARLES B. WHITING. HARTFORD, Conn., Dec. 19.

Roman Catholic Priest on the Church Attendance Census.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: It is good to see with what keenness of observaion you show up the misleading character of the "church attendance" figures of the Church News Association. However, the statistics are not without their value.

A great deal more can be done than is done to make the Catholic churches attractive in order to draw the people-by well prepared short discourses, by carrying out the lay of the Church in regard to preaching, by five-minute sermons" at all the low masses, by saying a little less about money, or at least saying it in a less offensive way, and saying little more about the Gospel-in short, giving to the people a larger measure of

giving to the people a larger measure of spiritual pabulum.

Still another means may be adopted, the method that M. Olier adopted with so much success in the large parish of St. Sulpice in Paris. The parishes can be divided into districts, and one of the curates can be assigned to each district and it can be made his duty to look up the delinquents.

Of course, the mass itself is the great magnet that draws the people to the Catholic churches. In the mass is the Real Presence of our Lord, and any one who has a bit of religious life is glad to come into the presence of the King of Kings. An intelligent man said to me the other day: "I have been in this country thirty-eight years, and not one Sunday during all those years have I been away from mass. I think it is a good thing for a poor man to go to church on Sunday to get the blessing of God from the altar." This man is typical of a whole host of Catholics.

As to the published statistics—they are misleading.

1. Where does the Church News Association

As to the published statistics—they are misleading.

1. Where does the Church News Association get the figures of Catholic Church membership—511,505? If they represent Catholic souls and include all, even the babes in arms, it is not right to use them alongside the Protestant Church membership which includes only adults. If they represent only people who can go to mass, how are they obtained? The pastors themselves are not able to get these figures—and their sources of knowledge are better than those of that association. association.

2. There are many more than the eighty-five places where people go to mass on Sun-

five places where people go to mass on Sunday in the borough of Manhattan; hence the count is incomplete.

3. Sunday schools are not reckoned; hence s. Sunday schools are not recorded, nearest the children are specially excluded from the count. It is the custom in most Catholic churches to have a special children's mass together with Sunday school. In Mgr. Mooney's parish there are 2,800 children attactions such masses.

together with Sunday school. In Mgr. Mooney's parish there are 2,800 children attending such masses.

4 There is a very much larger proportion of Catholic people who are totally unable to go to mass, and their absence indicates no decadence of the religious spirit. A large proportion of the men and women who must work on Sunday are Catholics. Count the number of Catholics among the policemen who are patrolling the streets, among the fremen who are watching over the safety of the city, in the Street Cleaning Department, the motormen and conductors on the surface and elevated railways, the small storekeepers who cannot leave their counters, the watchmen who are guarding property interests, the domestics who are serving in the homes of the wealthy, the women who have nursing infants or little children at home whom they cannot leave (there are generally some of these in every Catholic family). All these are good religious people who would go to mass if they could. The proportion of these various classes is comparatively small among the members of Protestant churches. While the published statistics are very misleading, yet, on the whole, they are very interesting and, in view of the religious welfare of the city, should be accurately studied.

New York, Dec. 17.

Standard Oil Business Methods.

To the Editor of the Sun-Sir: My attention was attracted to-day to a headine in THE SUN over a despatch from Lincoln. Neb. It was "War on Rockefeller's Gift," and on reading further I found that some newspaper out there was opposed to accepting a certain donation from Mr. Rockefeller, "for the reason that his possessions are tainted with the vice of oppression," and, I take it, this op-Oil Company.

Now, I don't own any Standard Oil stocks or bonds, and don't know any person who does, but I have lived three winters in Nome, Alaska, where just now there are about eighteen hours of darkness each day. The temptation to merchants and speculators to corner anything in that market by which a little money can be made seems to be irresistible. The suspicion of a shortage in any staple immediately sends the price to the top notch. notch.

But there is one commodity that the specu-

But there is one commodity that the speculator cannot control, and that is oil. The Standard Oil Company has a depot there, and it makes no difference what methods are adopted by the speculator—as long as there is a gallon left in the warchouses of the company the price is just the same. Efforts have been made and carefully planned to "corner" the market, but always without success; a merchant or an individual can only purchase what the company decides he needs for his trade or consumption, and neither money nor influence has ever been able to get more. It was discovered one winter that the company was short, owing to an unsuspected leakage. An enterprising merchant bought all he could from other dealers and individuals, and when he got all he could outside the company he jumped the price to \$20 a case—a case consists of two five gallon cans—but the company sold out its last drop at the old price of \$4.50, and happened to have enough for use till the long hours of daylight.

What is true of Nome in this regard is true of the Yukon River country and Dawson. Before the company established its depot at Dawson oil was anywhere from \$15 to \$50 a case, but the minute the company's first cargo landed, the price was fixed by it at \$7.50, where it has remained ever since.

The company has the profound respect and admiration of the residents of Alaska, certainly.

Was hington, D. C., Dec. 18.

WAS HINGTON, D. C., Dec. 18.

Draco was propounding the cause of Law.
"When you have laws," he explained, "you have policemen, and when you have cops, you can keep ing the true inwardness for the first time, they eagerly begged him to pass some more.

Solon was making the law for the Athenians "But," they objected as they viewed the result, you have omitted to give us any Sloux Palls." Sadly perceiving his failure, he hastly left for

THE CATHOLIC CONTROVERSY. Defence by a Distinguished Roman Cath-

olic Priest of the Ideas of "Sacerdos." TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.-Sir: The letter published in Tuesday's Sun at the request of Archbishop Farley deserves deep respect, as well for its conservative respectability as for its archiepiscopal pater-But-pace tantorum virorum-it states but inadequately the issue raised by your able correspondents "Sacerdos" and "Free

True, a priest must not be recalcitrant: unquestionably he must refrain from criticism of his superiors; from the very alphabet of the code that governs him he knows that his personal interests must yield when they against episcopal authority. So much the letter preaches, and I venture to think that the gentlemen against whom the preaching is levelled neither dream of denying its soundness nor feel their consciences in the least disturbed by its implications: for against the general law of subordination to higher powers they offered no protest; they made no pretence at pleading for clerical equality; they nowise suggested the flaunting of red rebellion in the venerable faces of their mitred masters.

Their whole contention rests upon the principle that there may be legitimate ex-

ceptions to the general law of reticence conerning the shortcomings of those above us, and that for grave reasons a priest may be justified in speaking out against abuses which the higher ecclesiastical authorities have either positively fostered or neglected to suppress. It is a principle taught in ele-mentary theology and confirmed most abundantly in history. St. Bernard of Clairvaux was a mere priest, but he scrupled not in his masterpiece "De Consideratione" to address some very robust admonitions to Pope Eugenius. St. Catherine of Siena was a mere woman, yet she thought it no insubordination to castigate the remissness of some highly listinguished ecclesiastics of her time. And if the pre-Reformation Popes had among their court preachers men of equal intrepidity, instead of se. i-pagans like the monster refrained in a Good Friday sermon in Leo X.'s chapel from using the sacred name of our Saviour because not being a Ciceronian word it would offend the haughty Latinists in red and purple who listened to him, it is possible that Luther's revolt would never have occurred, or if it did occur, would never have torn half of Europe from the ancient

In passing judgment, therefore, upon your two clerical remonstrants, we must ask or question, before, with that letter, we intimate that the only honorable course them is apostasy. We must ask: Is there a grave reason which justifles their complaint? That complaint, it will be remembered, was that among some modern prelates exists a spirit of hostility to such intellectual research as would lead Catholics to adopt much of the Biblical, philosophical and his

research as would lead Catholics to adopt much of the Biblical, philosophical and historical criticism of our age; and that in consequence of this hostility we Catholics are drifting away from the modern mind, are becoming isolated from the higher interests of the intellect and are submitting to a perilous and unnecessary strain the faith of our intelligent corelizionists, who cannot endure the harness of thirteenth century philosophy nor wear the nuzzle of fifth century exegesis.

That is, substantially, I think, the grievance of "Sacredos" and "Free Speech." And, if it is true, their justification is full, heaped up and running over. Is it true? I can answer for Europe with much more assurance than for America. In Europe, I am convinced a policy of war, & outrance, has been proclaimed against the time spirit by many of our captains clothed in purple; and this has been the chief cause of the appalling losses which the Church in those countries has had to suffer. And in America? Here, too, has been displayed many an ominous specimen of hierarchical futility. The honorable advances of learned societies and institutions have been met with disdainful hauteur or with the thunderbolts of outgrown excommunications. It is an understood thing that if a loyal priest were to grown excommunications it is an understood thing that if a loyal priest were to
submit to some antediluvian Censor librorum,
a manuscript in which the author admitted,
as all honorable students must admit, that
scientific progress has pulverized half a hundred human opinions which are no part of
Catholic faith, but a large part of our theological expositions of it, such a priest would be
refused an imprimatur, and would probably
be forevermore an object of devout and
vizilant suspicion. Then look for a moment
at the world of American scholarship. Take
the Universities of Harvard, Yale, Columbia,
Cornell, Brown, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin,
Chicago and as many others as any one may
wish. Compute the influence upon the future of this country which these institutions
at this moment potentially possess; then
realize that our Bishops are doing absolutely
nothing to throw into that influence the least
ingredient of Catholicity, but that, on the
contrary, they profess the desire, and occasionally profess it to the four winds with
trumpets, that into the campus of a modern
school of higher studies our religion shall
not enter; try to estimate the prodigious

sionally profess it to the four winds with trumpets, that into the campus of a modern school of hicher studies our religion shall not enter; try to estimate the prodigious catastrophe of thus alignating ourselves from the men and the methods that will fashion the men and the methods that will fashion the future of this Republic; and from all this give judgment whether our superiors who inherit the apostolic office do not fall so far beneath the apostolic office do not fall so far beneath the apostolic stature as to deserve the animadversions of every zealous and learned priest who esteems the welfare of the faith above the conventionalities of ecclesisatical decorum.

Let us send our young men to the great universities. Let us emerge from the superstition that we are in some manner obliged to incarcerate them in a Catholic college, where men, trained themselves in an intellectual despotism, will make of them intellectual slayets, and where minor orders, a religious habit and a couple of magic initials after a scholastic's name are the sole attestation of professional ability. Then let our prelates establish a Catholic hall at every important educational institution. Let a priest be appointed there whose studies have not closed with the date of the death of Thomas Aquinas. Let him hold opinions legitimate to him as a scholar and not forbidden him as a Catholic. Let him think, if he is so convinced, that the temporal rower has been a curse to Catholicity; that Moses did not write the Pentateuch, that no Catholic theory of inspiration enforces belief in the Jonah and the Balaam incidents; that Infants of Prague and St. Expedits should be banished from our churches: that infallible thirteen Tuesdays and infallible nine Fridays are a degradation of devotion; that miracle shrines should be summarily closed, and Benedict medal promises strictly prohibited; let such a priest, in whom holiness of life is joined to thoroughness of learning, present by word and example in these halls of study the glorious claims of pue Ca the ipse dixits of theologians who have heaped unwarranted accretions upon the essential things of faith. And whosoever would stay the progress of ideas, or try to repair the age-eaten barriers which once did violence to liberty of mind, is doing a fond and foolish thing; and if so be that he has even from heaven a message for the souls of modern men they will not be able to hear that message from laughing at his folly.

In conclusion, let me say that there exist in Spanish a work on Liberalism which is the quintessence of reactionary folly, a very death sentence to human thought—coming from a Spanish ecclesiastic, it could hardly be anything else. To the English translation of this book, I regret to say, was signed the name nits ched to the letter printed in The Sun of Tuesday. Sun of Tuesday.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: A letter printed by you on Tuesday, at the request of Archbishop Farley, contains the suggestion that a person so disaffected as I am will find an immediate and complete remedy for the grievance in question by leaving the Church. Am I to understand then that the head of this archdiocese allows himself to be publicly recorded as advising me to sever connection with the Catholic Church?

BROOKLYN, Dec. 17. FREE SPEECH.

Nassau Street for Pedestrians Only. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Undoubtedly, travel on Nassau street ought to be limited to pede and positive danger to the former. But the sug gestion that it should be arcaded over is not enforced by any necessity.

In the case of fire such an arcade would be

hazardous impediment. Moreover, its construction would involve needless expense. Every necessity would be met if vehicular traffic was excluded from the street, save at the early hours of the morning before the pedestrian travel begins and in the ex ing when it is over. Vehicles will suffer little or no inconvenience if they are directed to parallel streets. but as a thoroughfare for pedestrians Nassau stree is necessary and should be preserved for their use solely. The sidewalks and the roadway together NEW YORE, Dec. 19. NASSAU STREET

A New Application. Mistress-Why have you set the alarm for 1 Bridget-Shure, that's for the bread today

PUBLIC OPINION OF DR. WOOD. A Clergyman's Opinion of the Proposed Promotion.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Whatever may be the outcome of the examination into the character and conduct of Gen. Wood, it would seem like the extreme of unwisdom to exalt him to the possible supreme command of the entire army of the United States. by making him a Major-General. He has not had the military training, nor shown the ability to warrant his being exalted to that high position of command We have adopted the wise theory that the leaders of our army must be men trained n the highest manner in the science of war in strategy, in the movements of great bodies of men, in penetration of the enemy's plans, in all the minor and major points of tactics that lead to victory. And in this day, when science is the greater element in conquest we certainly need leaders of the highest ability and of the severest training to lead our armies. It was this, even more than the splendid valor of our soldiery, that won us victory over the rebellion.

Let the Senators read afresh the masterly article of Gen. Sherman in the Century Mana. gine of May, 1887, on "The Grand Strategy of the War of the Rebellion," and see what kind of generalship gave us the final victory. It was 3rant, and Sherman, and Sheridan, and Thomas, and Meade, and Rosecrans, and other officers of high training, that not only planned the final victory, but who inspired the soldiery with confidence and bravery to win the victory. Shall we place any man who has not had the

training for the high position of a leader of great armies in the place of such a leader? Would it be wise, would it be safe, to exalt Gen. Wood to any higher grade in the army than he now holds, even though he be a tru man in honor and trust, of which there is some suspicion?

TRENTON, N. J., Dec. 19.

A Former Naval Officer's Views.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: It is particularly unfortunate, not only for Gen. Wood, but for the President himself, that the investigation has not been carried on so that the public could at least have a correct idea of the testimony given. This in-vestigation has assumed a condition never dreamed of by the President himself, when, o the utter disregard of all justice to army officers, to army discipline, as well as the President's duty as Commander-in-Chief of the Army, he is using his official position o help a personal friend. Gen. Wood himself cannot, of course, be blamed for accepting a promotion that would lead him eventually to command the United States army.

At the time the Secretary of War wrot

the letter protesting against the publication of garbled testimony he was perfectly well aware that two army officers, and one naval officer, all of high rank, had testified-if reports in the newspapers are correct-concerning the unveracity and the insubordination of Gen. Wood. Knowing the reputation of these officers as I do, it is not possible to believe that if they had testified differently they would not have at once notified the Department that a wrong impression, or rather, false statements, regarding their testimony had been given out to the public by the newspapers. The testimony given in the newspapers

up to the time of the appearance of Secretary Root's letter had in itself been sufficient to afford Gen. Wood at least an opportunity to take the stand in defence of his own word and honor. The Secretary's letter to the effect that he has seen nothing so far to bring Gen. Wood home to appear before the committee looks very much as if the Secretary was taking a stand in the defence of Gen. Wood. But the General himself, unless he immediately insists on being ordered home, will suffer from it eventually, whether his commission is confirmed or not.

In view of some of the testimony given by those who. I am sure, have a character to lose, the President, as Commander-in-Chief, will fail in his duty to the discipline of the army, and to Gen. Wood and the army and navy officers testifying now before this committee, if a court of inquiry is not held to ent officers who have so far testified. AN EX-NAVAL OFFICER

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 19.

The Anniversary of Plymouth Rock and the Pilgrim Fathers. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: We are at the season when, here and there, are held meetings "commemorating the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers at Plymouth Rock, Dec. 21, 1620." Such commemoration ought to be universal, but it is important significant facts are that there was no such landing of the Pilgrims on the 21st of December, or at any dependence for shelter; that the final landing did not take place until March 31, 1621; and that Plym outh Rock was not known until some time in January, 1621, and was never used for ordinary The day that commemoration ought to fall on is not the 21st of December, but the 26th which was the day on which the ship came acros the bay from Cape Cod: but it was not until the Sist that a decision was reached not to look any farthe ing of the Pilgrims" took place.

EDWARD C. TOWNE.

From the Boston Daily Advertiser.

Local police officials see no reason for fixing the lowest limit at which a person may drive a team at stateen years. A good many teamsters in Boston are under this age, and no serious accidents have ever been caused by their reckless driving. In fact, nearly all the smashups and runaways have been have reached man's es tate and have had experience

In the attempt to regulate street traffic in New York and prevent jams and collisions, Deputy Police Commissioner Piper has made a rule that no one who is not at least sixteen years old may h driver for any kind of vehicle. But this rule wil never solve the trame problem. True it is that a good deal of responsibility rests with the drivers And the only way in which to make them reali it is to clothe the policemen, at the street corners public squares and traffic centres, with authority ver the drivers. This is the Boston m in both cases, crooked and tortuous streets not

The Old Bridge to the New. saptized in fire, you were named 'mid the roarin of guns,

And the ships went by on the river below you

and the dark was made brilliant with blossoms o flame that shuns Darkness, and for you was the night made lik

Scorning it, thing of the depths-you child of the But remember, the depths claim tribute for aye of man's blood Dripped on you and from you into the depths ere your spans were made one.

Proudly, gallantly, brother, you lifted your head

Hearken, O my brother, you that are greate You are thrilled with the joy of your life in the trampling of feet. When the skies flamed to glorify you, you shone 'gainst the aky-I was sombre and still and alone, thinking thoughts

that were meet.

Stand to your work!

o hearken to me, younger brother, I greet you and warn-Have you pondered your lot? When you feel the great strain, do not shirk! When the hurrying millions of souls you have not With their multitudinous destinies trust you

am old, I am gray. Approved and accepted, I toll Never again shall the wine of acclaim your proud portion be.
brother, Man passes you by with his plaudits to spoil More regions of river and air for his use-hearken

Naught now for you, brother, but the weary bend ing of back
Neath the burden of traffic—the gray, daily treadmill of work: No more shall pageants praise you. But the fame you still lack

Shall be yours as the mine, if you work, if you

THE ALEXANDRETTA AFFAIR An Asiatic's Protest Against Too Drastic

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'Parsifal."

Treatment of the Turk. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN -Sir: There is no man in this country who is better qualified than Secretary Hay to know that the essential qualities of the members of the diplomatic service are cool head, keen foresight and a persuasive tongue. A man without these qualifications is an anachronism in the serrice and a danger to international amity. Ambassador, a Minister or a Consul in a for-eign land, as a representative of his country, as more freedom of action, more latitude for self-initiation, and more facility for using his privileges than the Prime Minister has at home. It is the personality of the man that can make himself and his country respected nd beloved in the place to which he is accredited, or otherwise, for no uniform laws of onduct can be prescribed for the members of diplomatic corps in different countries of

It is my conviction that if Consul Davis at

Alexandretta had used more prudence and tact than he has done, and instead of caning the police and showing his Yankee temper as if he were the boss of the whole universe, acted in friendly spirit, he would have secured the release of the Armenian without coming to blows, and avoided international compli-Indiscretions like that of Consul Davis have far-reaching international conse quences. A time there was when the British Ambassador at Constantinople used to be a centre of attraction, admiration and affection in that metropolis, and he used to do great service to his country through his popularity. In those days an English man had a free passport throughout the Ottoman Empire. But since Lord Rosebery sent Sir Philip Currie -- an untrained man in the traditions of diplomatic service-to Cor stantinople, great events occurred to the Englishman became an abomination in Mos lem countries. It is not easy for an Englishman to get permission for travelling in Turkey commercial and industrial advantages in that country that were, so to speak, the monopoly of England have gone now to Germany.

Similarly, M. Cambon, the French Ambas sador at the Golden Horn, used to be a great favorite of the Sultan, and through his popularity his countrymen used to have more privileges in Turkey than the people of other nationalities. But since M. Constans successor, began to shake his fist in the face successor, began to shake his fist in the face of the Sublime Porte, on the question of quay at Stamboul, the former Franco-Turkish cordiality changed into cold, rigid-formality. The name of America—the hand of the free—has a particular charm throughout the East. An American is welcome everywhere in the Orient. He can travel in Turkish, Persian, Russian and Chinese dominions with little inconvenience, while Englishmen cannot. But if the present Administration is going to run the government of this country cannot. But if the present Administration is going to run the government of this country on jingo lines, as subservient to the selfish motives of other countries, the name of America will become a byword all over the East.

It must be remembered that the Ottoman Empire possesses an army—a perfect machine of fighting—which is second to none in the world Moreover, in soite of corrupt atmosphere fighting—which is second to none in the world Moreover, in spite of corrupt atmosphere around the Yildiz Kiosk, the Turkish nation on the whole is a healthy and suong nation. The Turks can only be driven out of Europe at the cost of a war which would stagger humanity. Is Mr. Roosevelt going to float American ironclads on Mount Ararat (which the late Lord Salisbury could not do, though his lordship was ready to fight five Sultans on the sea) "in pursuing an emphatic course in Consul Davis's case"? He can never do a greater disservice to the Armenians and other Christians in Turkey and Persia than by making a childish demonstration of naval force

by making a childish demonstration of naval force.

At present, owing to Macedonian rebellion and the insults hurled by Christians against Isiam, the Moslem world is suffering from feverish excitement, and the blood of the people is up. Religious animosities are at this moment at their height, and it is quite possible that this blustering naval expedition from Beirut to Alexandretta may set a spark in an explosive magazine which would be beyond the power of the Turkish Government to extinguish.

I hope and trust that Mr. Roosevelt will proceed on this question with prudence and calm judgment, will not endanger the safety of Christians in the East, and will not cause the door of the Turkish empire to be closed in the face of American tourists and antiquarians by his hasty action.

MOHAMMAD BARAKATULLAR.

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.

"Chemist" and the Free Lectures. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: The controversy started by my letter on the free lecture system leads me to write again, that I may not be misunderstood. I find no fault with the delivery. illustration or accuracy of the lectures. I merely doubt the wisdom or usefulness of their extension as an educational factor. I cannot see that they teach anything that cannot be more readily as similated from the current newspapers and periodi cals. True, they provide a substitute for perhaps seems to me to be to give a large number of comparatively ignorant persons the idea that they have, in a few short hours' time, amassed a vast fund of general and particular information. In short to foster a sort of middle-class dilettanteism which as it encourages self-complacency, cannot be us ful or at all desirable. But as for the lecturers. I think they do their best, and that that best is. in most cases, very good indeed. A CHEMIST.

NEW YORK, Dec. 19. The Christmas Gold Coin.

From the Boston Dally Advertiser Gold, newly coined, continues in demand for Christmas gifts in Boston, and the Sub-Treasury here anticipates a rush for the bright new piece before the end of the Christmas season. Mor popular are the \$5, \$10 and \$20 gold pieces. For the entire holiday season it is estimated that people in this part of the State will have taken from th Sub-Treasury over \$1,000 in this way.

New York reports a marked call for \$1,000 an

\$10,000 Government greenbacks for Christma gifts, but the ambitions of the holiday givers her have not taken wings unto themselves as the Ne York figures would imply. The Sub-Treasur gets most of the gold coins back in a remarkab pieces are gifts, the recipients in a majorit cases hie themselves to the banks to put them The banks take them to the Treasu and thus the circulation is kept up without inte ruption.

When Justice Harlan Forgot.

From the Louisville Courier-Journal A Kentucky distiller who is in Louisville on h way home after a trip East is telling a story a the expense of Justice John M. Harlan of the Su preme bench. "While I was in Washington." preme bench. said, "I met the famous jurist at a reception. hostess was serving the punch and rallied Justice about his failure to drink more than glass. He replied that he felt disloyal when drank 'his' other than straight. He took a sec lowever, saying that he did not have any of genuine at that time. I sent him up a case of n best the next day. On Sunday morning I attended the Presbyterian church in Washington where Justice Harian is an elder. The church is an old one and long steps lead up to the entrance. I was standing on the outside after the service when Justice Harlan started down the steps. In a volce that could be heard a square he shouted to m "That was fine," and then, remembering where he was, he added hastily, "The sermon, I mean." "That was fine," and the

Cinerary Laurels.

From the Westminster Gasette,
The late Gustav von Moser used to show his friends a little crystal urn in which he ordained that his ashes were to rest after his cremation From every one of the many laurel wreaths showere on him after the premiere of a new success he used to pluck a single leaf, burn it, and lay its adhes in the urn. "And so, you see," he was wont to say with his sunny smile, "one of these days I shall really be resting on my laurels." His whimsica request was scrupulously observed.

A Name That Should Not Have Died. From the London Financial Times.

Of all the demises recorded in the list of companies struck off the register of joint stock com

panies, one of the most regrettable is that Panter's Patent Improved Mounting Beds Sync cate. The name calls up a vision of an elder man, stout and scant of breath, being assisted vice: and it seems a thousand pities that this bene olent institution should have collapsed

From the Washington Post.
Senators have a terrible time wrestling to the simplest Spanish words. The learned Thebaput the accents on the wrong syllables or give on Thursday dealt frequently with the word "Par ama," which he invariably spoke as though rhymed with "pajama." Yesterday his fric rhymed with "pajama." Yesterday his fr Senator Daniel, the eloquent Virginian, and casion to speak often of the treaty of New Granad which he pronounced as though ...

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